

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AGR-10 COME-00 CEA-01 CIEP-02

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R 091300Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1886

INFO AMEMBASSY PREOORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0007

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SF, US

SUBJ: PLANNED SHIPMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR TO U.S.

IN 1979

REF: STATEH2793?7

1. BEGIN SUMMARY

S.A. SUGAR ASSOCIATION (SASA) PLANS SHIP 50,000 TONS

RAW SUGAR TO U.S. BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1975.

END SUMMARY

2. GENERAL EXPORT MANAE INFORMEX CONGEN OFFICER SASA

DECIDED IN DECEMBER ADHEREIN 1975 TO U.S. SUGAR IMPORT

CEILING AS IT EXISTED FOR S.A. PRIOR EXPIRATION SUGAR ACT.

CONTRARY TO PAST PRACTICE, HOWEVER, NO SHIPMENTS TO U.S.

WILL TAKE PLACE DURING FIRST QUARTER 1975 AND EARLIEST

SHIPMENT WILL "PROBABLY BEGIN MAY BUT NOT LATER THAN JUNE".

INITIAL SHIPMENT OF 15,000 TO 20,000 TONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY

SUBSEQUENT SHIPMENTS DURING ENSUING WEEKS IN EFFORT REACH

ESTABLISHED CEILING BY END SEPTEMBER. SASA DOES NOT CONTEM-

PLATE EXCEEDING 50,000 TON MARK DESPITE NEW U.S. GLOBAL

QUOTA.

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3. SASA HAS LONG TERM CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLY OF SUGAR OF UNDISCLOSED MAGNITUDES. PRINCIPAL IMPORTERS ARE JAPAN AND CANADA. ACCORDING EXPORT MANAGER, SUCH CONTRACTS COSTLY TO S.A. SINCE SUGAR SALES TO DATE NOT YET GUIDED BY WORLD PRICES. RECENT MAJOR SHIPMENTS TO CANADA WERE MADE AT PRE-NOVEMBER 1974 SUGAR PRICES.

4. SASA BELIEVES PRESENT TIGHT SUGAR SUPPLY WILL BECOME ACUTE BY MID-1975, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW SERIOUS SUGAR BEET FAILURES IN EUROPE AND USSR. LATTER'S CROP JUST NOW HARVESTED, REPORTEDLY DOWN TWO MILLION TONS. ESTIMATED LOSS OF TWO MONTHS OF CANE GROWTH IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING PAST DRY WINTER NOW DOUBLE EARLIER ESTIMATES, OR ABOUT 100,000 TONS. SASA AS YET UNABLE PREDICT WITH ANY DEGREE ACCURACY MAGNITUDE THIS YEAR'S CROP BEGINNING MAY SINCE BULK THEREOF TWO-YEAR GROWTH AND 15 PER CENT IS ANNUAL CROP GROWN WITH AID OF IRRIGATION. IN ANY EVENT, SASA WOULD CONTINUE SUPPLY U.S. AS IN THE PAST, IN BELIEF S.A. WOULD AGAIN BE SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF A REINSTITUTED QUOTA SYSTEM.
HOLMES

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